



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 5

Meeting Date: August 31, 2007

Meeting Location: Wabash Valley Hospital
South River Road
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Council Members Present: Gilbert Smith, Regional Manager; Janis Mullen, Director Carroll and Clinton County DCS; Barbara Bedrick, Director White County DCS; Judge Loretta Rush, Tippecanoe County; Coleen Hamrick, CASA Director, Tippecanoe County; Judge Rader, Warren County; Cathy Booe, FCM Supervisor, Fountain County; Kathy Shank, FCM Carroll County; and Donna Osborn, Foster Parent.

Council Members Absent: Elva James, Director Benton County DCS; Judge Henderson, Fountain County.

Others In Attendance: Angela Smith Grossman, Director Tippecanoe County DCS; Cindy Mason, Director Fountain County DCS; Linda Akers, Director Warren County; Sonya Janssen, Tippecanoe County FCM Supervisor; Landra Talbott, FCM Clinton County; Autumn Badger, FCM Warren County; dianne Huddleston of Wabash Valley Hospital and David Eilar, Referral & Development Specialist, Wernle.

<h3>Meeting Minutes</h3>

Meeting Called to Order at: 7:30 am

1. Minutes from June 29th. No additions or corrections were made.
2. Gil introduced Landra Talbott, Clinton County FCM. Landra is the Practice Indicator consultant for the Region. She coordinates training, among other things.
3. Region 5 is making progress in the Practice Indicator Reports. Our numbers are looking better and will continue to improve.
 - Visitation and Contact report – This will look better in the future due to better data entry. Workers are learning where in ICWIS information needs to be entered in order to be counted. Barb Bedrick had a question regarding the visitation contact report and Gil is going

to get clarification for her. Also, Angela Smith Grossman found a large discrepancy for Tippecanoe County in the Visit and Contact report. Her workers have started entering data in the visit log but the numbers are still way too low.

- Finalized Adoption Rates and Reunification Rates – The state watches Tippecanoe County because they are way ahead of the curve. Our whole Region is doing well.
 - Length of Stay in Out of Home Placement – Region 5 is doing well in this area. We are getting to permanency pretty quickly. FCM turnover tends to correlate and extend the length of time to permanency.
 - Sibling Placement Report – Our Region is a little above the state on sibling placements. We have many good foster homes that will take multiple placements.
 - Average Number of Placement Moves – We're a little better than the state average. Tippecanoe County has an emergency placement plan where they can take children to a daycare that works on multiple shifts. The daycare keeps the kids temporarily (a few hours) while the worker finds a placement. They can comfort the kids and get them cleaned up if necessary. Tippecanoe County only uses them once or twice a month but it really helps give the department time to look for relative placement.
 - Locally Placed CHINS – We need more specific foster homes with this as part of a targeted foster parent recruitment effort. This includes relatives so that brings the numbers down. Cindy Mason and Kathy Shank both found discrepancies with this report. This may have something to do with how institutions are counted.
 - CHINS Placement by County – We're gaining ground in this area pretty quickly, improving our numbers. As a region we are slightly below the state for residential care.
 - Use of Substitute Care – Better data is coming. Regionally we are at 21% while state wide is 24%.
4. Regional Plan – We still don't have this back approved yet.
5. Practice Reform – Landra gave an update on training, peer coaching and facilitators. She stated that the basic problem with training is getting everyone scheduled. Dates were discussed for a Community Forum on Practice Reform. Gil is going to work on setting it up for the morning of October 23rd. This will probably be half day or maybe even two hours. There appears to be more of an interest in legal training for Practice Reform than was originally thought so we may make this a separate training. The counties were asked to let Gil know if Guardian Ad Litums are interested.

Coleen Hamrick stated that she had several attorneys that are interested in attending training.

6. Local Office Request –

- Jan Mullen requested \$13,000 to pay for a teacher to be available at the Learning Center 6 hours a week in the evenings for students and parents to come in and work with. The Learning Center will provide computers and so far there is no cap on the number of kids who can use this service. Jan passed out detailed information on the program. Linda Akers made a motion to approve the request and Barb Bedrick seconded it. Motion was approved.
- Linda Akers requested \$3500 for the Parks Department in Williamsport, \$19,500 for the Opportunity Center, a bi-county community alternative school, \$3500 for a home school advisor for the elementary schools and \$2500 for the after school care program. This is a total of \$29,500. Judge Rader made a motion to approve the request and Jan Mullen seconded it. Motion was approved.

7. dianna Huddleston said that Community Partners is up in all counties. They've had 29 referrals involving 21 families and have spent \$1167.89 in emergency funds as follows:

- Fountain County – 5 referrals, no ER money spent
- Warren County – 5 referrals, \$480 ER money spent
- White County – 2 referrals, no ER money spent
- Benton County – 9 referrals, \$349.89 ER money spent
- Carroll County – 4 referrals, \$388.00 ER money spent
- Tippecanoe County – 1 referral, no ER money spent
- Clinton County – 3 referrals, no ER money spent

Wabash Valley has been able to enter data effectively and the case workers have enjoyed working with these referrals.

In order to qualify for these services the following criteria must be met: No substantiated abuse or neglect, must have a referral from DCS and must not meet the criteria for Healthy Families. (For Healthy Families a child must be between 0 – 3 years old and must be identified before 3 months of age.) dianne is asking her workers to contact Healthy Families to clarify whether an older sibling who needs help might not get it because a younger child qualifies for Healthy Families.

There was some discussion about whether or not Wabash Valley should call the counties before spending emergency money. For the time being they will continue to call and ask the counties first.

8. Fingerprint Pilot – Sonya Janssen gave a brief overview of how this is going in Tippecanoe County. It turns out this is a very difficult and time

consuming process. Some families are not doing the bar codes first and staff has to walk them through this process. Also, it is difficult to get the pressure just right when rolling the fingers for prints. Each set of prints can easily take 30 – 45 minutes. For now they are going to limit the ones they do to emergency placements and adoptions. All others will still be referred to the UPS Store.

Next Meeting Date, Time and Location: The next meeting will be October 26th at 7:30 a.m. at the Wabash Valley Hospital on South River Road in West Lafayette.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:25 am.